

Nashville Union.

For Freedom and Nationality.

S. C. MERCER, Editor.

SUNDAY MORNING, MAY 25, 1862.

Washington Correspondence.

The letter which we publish from Washington was written for the Union by a gentleman of fine ability, for many years a resident at the capital.

Martial Law and Confiscation.

The New York Journal of Commerce of the 20th instant has a very labored and not very lucid article on martial law, and the whole argument of which is designed to prove that the Government has no right to divest a rebel of his property permanently. It says: "There is a war power under the Constitution, but it has no legal effect beyond or against the Constitution. It may be exercised for certain purposes, but must be exercised constitutionally. A man killed in war is killed constitutionally, and property destroyed in suppressing an insurrection is destroyed constitutionally. But these are acts of war, accomplished by the war, and the war power cannot destroy property by proclamation, or produce permanent legal disabilities to hold property."

It says again, that a "General may, for the purposes of war, have the power to take a slave from his master, loyal or disloyal, and employ him for Government. Or he may, for war purposes, prevent the master from exercising authority over the slave. But the property of the master in the slave is not affected, and the instant that the physical and actual deprivation of the use of the slave is discontinued by the general, that instant the master resumes his right."

Without casting the slightest imputation upon the loyalty of the Journal of Commerce, we must acknowledge our inability to understand the object of its efforts, with those of some other Northern journals, to prove that the Government should scrupulously respect the rights of a Rebel and a traitor, arrayed in arms against itself, and seeking its overthrow, to the undisturbed possession of his property. Is the vigorous and successful prosecution of this war a matter so trivial that the loyal people can afford to turn aside from the blockade of the coast, from Richmond, from Corinth, and from the guerrillas of Missouri, Tennessee and Southern Kentucky, to return some rebel's runaway horse or negro, or to pay him for provender and provisions taken from his farm? So far is this from being the case, that we make the assertion, which is sustained by the general voice of history, that the very last question which should concern us, is the protection of the property of traitors, leading to the destruction of the Government, and the enslavement of loyal people. If, as the Journal of Commerce asserts, "the instant that the general discontinues the actual deprivation of the slave, that instant the master resumes his right," will not this rule be as applicable to the gun, or the lead, or the powder, or the warlike stores of the Rebel armies? The Journal makes no discrimination between taking property from a loyalist and a disloyalist. It coolly ignores the fact that treason has always been regarded by universal consent as outlawing the offender and stripping him of his civil rights and privileges. It is, in fact, political suicide—a civil felo de se.

We hear far more about respecting the constitutional rights of rebels, who are trying to destroy the Constitution, from some quarters, than we do about quelling the rebellion. We are told that we must carry on this war according to the Constitution. Granted, so far as respects loyal men, but not as respects rebels in arms against the Government. The Government was instituted to protect the rights of faithful citizens, not of those who have disfranchised themselves. The Constitution is a bond and covenant to be observed between ourselves, not as regards enemies who are endeavoring to destroy our whole political fabric. In other words, we do not recognize the Constitution as conferring any privileges on those who claim to be without its pale. The Journal brands as "radical" the idea of an indefinite war power. Why, all war power must, in its very nature, be indefinite. War is nothing but violence. Its whole operation is one of compulsion, of force, of coercion. The best war ever waged can be nothing after all but a most fearful necessity, and they whose wickedness and folly have brought it on should be the very last to

complain of its terrors. We shall close this article with an extract from a recent speech of that able and conservative man, Senator Wright, of Indiana, on the Confiscation bill as somewhat pertinent to this matter:

I have no patience for long disquisitions upon the power of Congress to pass an act of confiscation. It is not denied that we have the power to declare war and to suppress rebellion, have we not also the power for the vigorous and successful prosecution of these objects? The greater power certainly includes the lesser one. By depriving the rebels of their means of continuing this rebellion, we go a great way towards securing its extinction. But away with these quibbles about the constitutionality of this proposition or that proposition. Instead of granting powers, and also affording all the necessary means for their execution, it would seem to be the belief of those who so frequently advance the objection of unconstitutionality, that the Constitution has conferred powers never intended they should be exercised; that it is so fettered as to be incapable of making a struggle for the preservation of the integrity of the Government to which it gave birth. I may say, air, outside of all questions of constitutionality in times of great peril to our free institutions, when recalcitrant and disloyal citizens in a large portion of the country rise in rebellion, spurn the Constitution, defy the laws, and resist the authority of the Government, there is one duty supreme and absorbing, a duty to which all others are subordinate—the duty of self-preservation, the safety of the Union from disruption, and of the constitution from annihilation. Everything opposed to the existence of the Government must be made to yield, or swept off with an iron hand. That the State may live, all minor considerations must be neglected, all inferior interests must perish.

I wish to refer for a moment, to the character of the war in which we are now engaged, in order that the mind may not be led astray by citations from and references to authorities which have and can have no application to this subject. There are two kinds of war; the one I may denominate a perfect war and the other a mixed war. A perfect war is where one nation declares war against another nation; and it has laws which are as well understood, and which must be adhered to as strictly, as any other laws. A mixed war, on the contrary, is a rebellion or insurrection of a portion of the people of a country against the Government. It is against law, in defiance of authority, and meets with no encouragement from the laws of nations. In a perfect war, the citizens, or subjects of one country are each and all the enemies of the citizens or subjects with which it is carrying on hostilities. They are so recognized and so treated in the laws of war. There is no exception. All those owing allegiance to the one nation are the foes of the other. It is far different in a mixed war. In that case, the loyal citizens are the enemies of the disloyal citizens.

When we declare war against the rebellion in the South we do not declare war against the States, nor against independent nationalities. Our hostilities are only directed against those who have taken up arms against the Government, and those who render them assistance; and the end which we seek is the suppression of the insurrection and the restoration of order. We do not declare that the citizens of all the secession States shall be considered as alien enemies; that the innocent shall be involved in ruin with the guilty; that there shall be no discrimination between those who are loyal and those who are disloyal; but we ask, and in no measure more plainly than the one before us, that there shall be a discrimination, that there shall be a method of determining between the true men and the false, and where we shall inflict severe punishment and where extend the protecting help or the clemency of this Government.

A war, strictly speaking, is between independent powers. Its laws are a branch of that code known as international law. No single member of the family of nations can establish, alter or amend them; but a suggestion made by one Power becomes, when approved by others, a part of the code. Our present contest may, on the contrary, as I have said, be called a mixed war—one of the parties standing to the other in the double relation of enemies and citizens. In other words, it is a mere multiplication of crimes committed by individual citizens until the attempt of the Government to put them down has grown to the dimensions and assumed the name of a war; which crimes may be dealt with in detail under the names of murder, theft, arson, as the case may be, or comprehended under the name of treason, which expresses the animus of the whole.

We see it stated that a German paper announces the formation in Berlin of a Society for the abolition of Christianity. We advise the Society to elect Dr. McFerris, Elder Graves and some other Nashville clergymen honorary members. We know of no men who will labor more diligently to accomplish the purpose of the Society or who will do more to bring reproach upon the cause of Christianity.

Miss Mary King, of Elizabeth township, in this county, made eighty-two pounds of good sugar, seven gallons of molasses, and forty-five gallons of beer, from nine sugar trees, this spring.

Sweet Mary! What a world this would be if it only had more ladies like you.

"Obscure Cobblers."

That organ of rebellion, the Atlanta Confederacy, edited by three as consummate snobs as ever licked the boots of a cotton oligarchy, in noticing the call for a Union Convention in this city, says that

"The list of signatures included every grade of men from the prominent and influential statesman to the most obscure cobbler. Several gentlemen in our city are intimately acquainted with the social, moral and political standing of a large number of the signers to this call. With very few exceptions, they are old-trachorous, uncompromising Unionists and Yankees, or men of base character, (and we judge that both these qualities are frequently combined in the same individual.) Some of these petitioners have held high positions, and were prominent men; but these who know them intimately have long known them to be vile, unprincipled, and sunk down deep in the slime of corruption. They have seemed to acquiesce and give in their adhesion to the Confederate government; but now that the Yankees have temporarily overrun the country, they have shown the dishonest stuff they are made of. If we had space, we would publish the list. It ought to be preserved. When the Yankees are driven out, every one of them that can be caught should suffer the extreme penalty of base treason."

There are a few names in the list which we should have sought for anywhere else than to a call for the people of Tennessee to return to bondage. But so it is. There are traitors and unprincipled scoundrels the world over—sometimes found among those with whom we should least have expected to find such material. It will be well for these traitors to keep out of our reach hereafter."

These editors, whose names are Geo. W. Adair, J. Henly Smith and S. C. Smith, and who speak so contemptuously of "obscure cobblers," are the same fellows who said that "the gentlemen of the South cannot submit to associate as privates with degraded volunteers." What business have "poor white trash," "mudsills" and "obscure cobblers" attempting to interfere with aristocratic planters? The editors are a good illustration of the truth of their remark that "there are traitors and scoundrels the world over." They abound in the Confederacy, and especially in the Atlanta Confederacy. There is no danger that any of the signers of the call will ever get in reach of the three-headed Cerberus who lurks in the Atlantic office, for whenever the Union flag comes within ten miles of Atlanta these swell head and whisky-tub editors, who yelp around the heels of such men as Gov. Campbell, Gov. Johnson and Jordan Stokes, will be running like wild deer in the opposite direction.

Singular Injunction.

A correspondent of the Atlanta Confederacy, writing from Corinth, speaks of picking up a lot of letters belonging to Federal soldiers, "one of which," he says, "written by a sister to a brother, contains the following singular injunction:"

"Be a good boy, Charles, and if you see a secessionist in distress, help him if it is in your power—even if it is Jeff Davis's self."

The injunction we think is a very humane and generous one, and for that very reason may have appeared "singular" to a rebel. How differently did that warm-hearted Union girl feel and write from those ferocious rebel Amazons who asked their sweethearts to send them a "Yankee scalp." These little incidents strikingly illustrate the world-wide gulf which rolls between the magnanimity of loyalty and the malignity and venom of treason.

We find the following in the Washington dispatches to the New York Journal of Commerce:

Rumors have reached this city to the effect that the public affairs at Nashville are not as satisfactory as they might be. The rigid administration of Governor Johnson is said to have undergone a change, and it is feared that he is thinking more of his own private welfare than of the public good for one who has been so very bitter against the rebels.

Will the Journal of Commerce do Governor Johnson the justice to give the above statement an absolute and total contradiction? There is not the least foundation for this foolish calumny, which was undoubtedly started by a disloyalist.

When Mobile falls, the entire State of Alabama falls with it, for the rivers of the State—the Tombigbee, the Tensaw, the Alabama, &c.—traverse its whole surface from north to south, and are navigable by our invulnerable gunboats, not only to Montgomery, the first rebel capital, but to nearly all other points of value.

It is estimated that the property destroyed by the rebels since the war commenced, to prevent the same from falling into Union hands, amounts to \$70,000,000.

Cold-blooded Rebel Murder.

The Atlanta (Ga.) Confederacy, of the 18th, now before us, contains a long extract from the Richmond Examiner, from which we take the following signal instance of the atrocious and savage spirit of the rebel armies:

Many of the women and children escaped from Norfolk, and others were in great distress at not being able to get away. We hear that groups of ladies in the streets, with tears in their eyes, appealed to our hurrying soldiers to protect them. One hasty sympathizer with the Yankees is reported to have been killed by our troops. The report, as we get it from a passenger from Norfolk, is that a man of the name of Parham, said to be a brother of the Provost Marshal, seeing a Confederate artillery company driving through the streets, and mistaking them for Yankee troops, dashed into the street, waving his hat, and bawling, "Hurrah for Lincoln!" He was immediately seized and put to death by our troops.

The New Orleans newspapers told us a few days ago of the butchery of six citizens of that place by the rebel troops, who, hearing them cheer the national flag, on its arrival there, actually fired on them in a crowd of women and children. These examples, signally illustrate the utterly diabolical and brutal vindictiveness of many of the rebels. They seem to snap and strike about them like a serpent broiling in a hot flame.

The Utica (N. Y.) Herald makes the following very pertinent and just remarks on the obstacles in the way of the Union cause in the seceded States, and their probable disappearance.

Tennessee may be taken as a "specimen brick." What has occurred there is destined to become general throughout the rebel States. Every objection that can be raised against the probability of the return of loyalty in the States, now wholly in rebellion, has been similarly urged against Tennessee; with how much reason, let this Union Convention testify. So long as the rebellion is sustained, there are many motives tending to keep up a hostile feeling towards the Federal Government. Sectional pride shrinks from the idea of being defeated in arms. The prospect of punishment for treason makes many desperate in their devotion to a cause in which they hope to find shelter against justice. The indebtedness of Southern traders to the North makes the majority of that class desire the success of secession as a means of absolving them from their debts. The circulation of two hundred millions of dollars in shipplasters through Secession doubtless appears to their numerous holders a powerful argument for maintaining the Confederacy, in order to give them a permanent value. And the fact that nearly every family in the South has some of its members or relatives in the rebel army, can have no other tendency than to induce a general and active sympathy with the rebel cause. There is, however, nothing in all these motives to disloyalty that may not receive its death-blow by the success of our arms. The chief causes of the existing disloyalty have had their origin in the war itself, rather than from any antecedent and deep-rooted dissatisfaction with Federal institutions.

When, therefore, these temporary causes of bad feeling are removed by ending the war, we may expect to find the people generally falling back upon their old feeling of devotion to the Union. This, at least, is the moral of the Tennessee Union Convention.

Few persons at a distance can comprehend and realize the infinite phases of opposition shown by leading rebels to the Union cause in this State. Does a soldier return home from the rebel army? A runner is instantly dispatched to him with the startling warning to keep dark or Governor Johnson will put him in jail. Does a planter wish to sell his cotton? A rebel ringleader tells him that an order has been issued to confiscate his cotton, and that he ought to destroy it immediately. And we could give hundreds of such cases. But the Union men are as patient, as resolute and persevering as their foes are reckless, violent and unscrupulous. It is not difficult then to foresee the final result of this warfare between patriotic determination and treasonable violence. (Esop relates that the Sun and the North wind once made a trial of their strength. Old Boreas blew with all his might upon the traveller, but the traveller only drew his cloak more closely around him and journeyed along. But when the sun emerged from the clouds, and poured down his noiseless and steady blaze, the traveller was forced to throw off his cloak and, overpowered by the heat, to stretch himself under the shade of a friendly tree.

The editors of the Southern Confederacy say that they are not astonished at our falsehoods. Now these fellows needn't expect to be astonished at a falsehood. They tell so many every day, that familiarity has bred contempt. But wouldn't the truth astonish the rascals?

New Advertisements.

THEATRE.

DUFFIELD & SANDS. W. H. EVERETT. MANAGER. STAGN MANAGER.

BRILLIANT COMEDY!

MONEY! MONEY!! MONEY!!!

MONDAY EVENING, MAY 26.

MONEY!

Principal Characters by Messrs. HAMILTON, EVERETT, WEAVER, PIERCE, TYLES, DUFFIELD, MITCHELL, Mrs. H. BERNARD, Miss SCANLAN, &c.

FAVORITE DANCE, - MISS CONQUESTING.

PLEASANT NEIGHBOR!

Principal Characters by Messrs. EVERETT, PIERCE, Mrs. H. BERNARD, &c. &c.

In Rehearsal, the Beautiful Extravaganza,

"BEAUTY AND THE BEAST."

PRICES OF ADMISSION.

Dress Circle, 50c. Second Circle, 25c. Boxes, 1.00. Doors open at 7 o'clock. Performance at 8 o'clock, precisely.

INFORMATION WANTED.

OF my husband, BERNARD HOLTHOF, a Carpenter by trade, who left me about four weeks since to go to Paducah, and from thence to Cairo, provided he did not find employment at Paducah. Any information in regard to him will be gladly received by his wife, as she has not heard from him since he left. If he does not return in two weeks, he need not return at all, as she will not live with him again. (May 25-31) Mrs. HOLTHOF.

LOST.

ON MARKET STREET, on the pavement between Ross's Salt Shed and Davis & Bazzell's door, a

Pair of Brass Frame Spectacles.

The finder will be suitably rewarded by leaving them at James Johnson & Co.'s, Market Street, may 25-26 J. J. ROBB.

Rio Coffee—10 Bags,

Star Candles—20 Boxes,

Just received, for sale by WM. LYON, 41, Market Street.

Fire Brick—3,000,

Fire Clay—5 Barrels,

may 25 For sale by WM. LYON.

NEW CLOTHING

STORE!

LOEB & BROTHERS,

No. 24 Market Street,

BELOW THE WATSON HOUSE,

And No. 2 Burnet House, Clin'ti,

HAVE FOR SALE A LARGE ASSORTMENT OF

ARMY CLOTHING

Including every thing in that line;

Citizens' Clothing,

OF ALL KINDS:

A Large Assortment of

HATS and CAPS;

Men's, Ladies' and Children's

BOOTS and SHOES,

—OF ALL KINDS:—

FURNISHING GOODS,

—SUCH AS—

Shirts, Handkerchiefs,

Ladies' and Men's Half Hose,

And almost every thing else kept in a Clothing Store, which they will sell at Cincinnati prices.

May 25-31

WANTED,

A SITUATION AS BOOK-KEEPER OR GENERAL CLERK, who has had an experience of 20 years in a Flouring House and Commission Business. Generally can make himself useful every way. The best of references given. Address B. L. N., No. 31, High Street.

may 25-26

HARDWARE FOR SALE!

A SMALL and well-assorted stock, just received, at 44 South College Street, consisting of shovels, hoes, axes, scythes, snuffers, forks, spades, nails, screws, hatchets, saws, and various other hardware, saws, planes, tables and pocket cutlery, &c. &c. Also, one Brown Mare, Saddle and Bridle. Apply to J. R. ALLEN, 41, Market Street.

may 25-26

50 BARRELS MESHANNOCK POTATOES, for sale low, to clear out, by WM. LYON, 41, Market Street.

A BILL

To amend the Revenue Laws in reference to Licenses.

WHEREAS, The City Council are of opinion that no man has the right to enjoy the privilege of a free government without being duly sworn to support and maintain it against domestic and foreign enemies;

Therefore, be it enacted by the City Council: Section 1. That the City Council of the City of Nashville, relating to licenses and privileges, be and are hereby amended that no free white person or persons shall hereafter be permitted to carry on any business or exercise any privilege in said City, for which a license or permission is now required by any law or ordinance of the Corporation of said City, without first applying to the City Recorder and taking an oath of allegiance and fidelity to the Constitution of the United States and the Government thereof, the same oath in form and substance as that heretofore taken by the present members and officers of the City Council.

Sec. 2. That no license hereafter issued or renewed shall be valid without a strict compliance on the part of the applicant with the first section of this act. Sec. 3. The Recorder shall be entitled to an additional fee of twenty-five cents for each and every oath administered as aforesaid, such fee to be paid by the person applying for the license. Sec. 4. That for each and every violation of the first section of this act, in addition to all former penalties by any law or ordinance of this Corporation, the offender shall also be liable to a fine of not less than five nor more than fifty dollars, to be recovered by warrant before the Recorder, as in other cases of violation of the Corporation law; provided, however, that nothing contained in the provisions of this act shall apply or abridge any law now in force and effect, and that this act shall not apply to or affect licenses issued prior to this date.

Sec. 5. It shall be the duty of the City Marshal to arrest and carry before the City Recorder for trial all persons suspected of a violation of this act.

M. M. TRIMM, Pres. Board of Aldermen.

W. P. JONES, Pres. Common Council.

JOHN HUGH SMITH, Mayor.

Attest: Wm. SHANN, Recorder.

Approved 23d May 25d, 1862. may 25-26

NOTICE!

ON SATURDAY, the 25th DAY OF JUNE, 1862, I will expose to public sale, to the highest bidder, for cash, at the Court house in the County of Davidson, a NEGRO MAN, named CHARLES, aged about 41 years, levied on as the property of John W. Martin, to satisfy one \$100 in my hands, in favor of J. F. Marford, Clerk and Master of the Chancery Court at Nashville, Tennessee, against John W. Martin and W. O. Harris. Sale will be at the usual hours, May 25d, 1862—id J. M. HUNTON, Sheriff.

NEW GOODS!

JUST RECEIVED, FOR SALE,

At J. F. Engster's Grocery Store,

No. 71, GERRY STREET, NEAR CEDAR.

REAL IMPORTED Swiss, Limburg and Western Reserve Cheese, Dried Potatoes, Corn, Split Peas, Beans, Barley, Oatmeal, Vermicelli, Macaroni, all kinds of Soap, Candles and Sugars, Fresh Herring, Sardines, besides all other kinds of groceries.

may 18-19

GRIFFITH & PARSONS

General Produce and Commission

MERCHANTS

No. 7 College Street,

NASHVILLE, TENN.

1000 Bushels Oats,

800 Barrels Flour,

5,000 lbs. Hams,

5000 lbs. Bacon,

3,000 lbs. Shoulders,

Coffee, Spice, Pepper,

Candles, Soap, Fish,

Cheese, Fruits, Brooms,

And many other articles, daily arriving from Northern Cities, and

For Sale Cheap.

—Cotton, Tobacco, and other Produce, received and sold on Commission.

NEW GOODS

Wholesale and Retail!

N. LANDE,

No. 13 Public Square,

(SOUTH SIDE CORNER MARKET.)

HAS received, and is constantly receiving, a large and well-selected stock of

HATS, CAPS,

—AND—

Gentlemen's Furnishing Goods,

CALICOES & DOMESTICS,

Which he will sell at wholesale and retail, at reasonable prices, for Cash.

may 18-20

J. M. MURPHY,

—DEALER IN—

COTTON CARDS, SUSPENDERS, BUTTONS.